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BAN ON FOREIGN SHIPPING
 North China Ports No Longer Open To China's Allies

Severe Blow To
 The Export Trade

(From Our Own Correspondent)

Shanghai, Dec. 18.

Another severe blow, not only to foreign shipping interests, but also to China's export trade, has been dealt by the Executive Yuan's order barring foreign ships loading or discharging at the North China ports of Tsingtao, Chinwangtao, Hulutao and Tientsin.

At Tientsin, this is modified to the extent that foreign ships may handle cargo in the open roadstead at Taku Bar.

NO NEW
 MOVE ON
 INDIA

London, Dec. 18.

The Viceroy, Lord Wavell, will return to India "any day now" but will not carry any new instructions according to a Government source today.

The Viceroy stayed in England to hear the debate in the House of Commons.

Pandit Nehru's resolution to go ahead with the framing of a constitution was viewed as defiance of the British proposals, but the Government does not intend any new move.

Both Mr. Attlee and Lord Pethick-Lawrence have conveyed messages to Nehru, advising him to disregard the "provocative" opposition speeches during the Commons debate. Their advice is that he proceed with the Constituent Assembly on the basis of the British statement of December 6, in the hope that Mr. Jinnah will eventually retract his decision to boycott the Assembly. —United Press.

Internee
 Detained
 For 7 Years

London, Dec. 17.

An all-party delegation is to wait on the Home Secretary, Mr. Chuter Ede, in the next few days to raise the case of Karl Kuchenmeister, a German wartime internee who has been detained by the authorities for seven years.

Kuchenmeister, an inventor and machine tool engineer is being detained in Brixton Prison under Royal prerogative pending a decision as to whether he should be sent back to Germany or some other country.

When the matter was raised in the House of Commons on Monday night, Mr. George Oliver, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Home Office, stated that Kuchenmeister was being detained under the power which the Crown could exercise against nationals of a state at war with Britain, which is technically the case today. —Reuter.

On A Charge
 Of Massacre

Warsaw, Dec. 18.

Four former Nazi officials of Warsaw pleaded innocent before a supreme national tribunal today to charges they were responsible for the mass executions of Poles and the destruction of the capital. They were Ludwig Fischer, Warsaw's Governor from 1939 through 1944; Max Daum, police colonel; Joseph Meisinger, Gestapo chief; and Ludwig Leis, civil guard captain. Fischer and Meisinger are charged with responsibility for the massacre of more than 500,000 Jews in Warsaw's ghettos. —Associated Press.

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V.C.

London, Dec. 17.
 The Victoria Cross has been posthumously awarded to T/Lieutenant Thomas Wilkinson, RNR, for valour at Singapore in February, 1942, when he was in command of a patrol vessel, HMS "Li Wo."
 Tonight's announcement of the award says it is awarded not only for Lieut. Wilkinson's heroism and self-sacrifice, but in honour, also of all who fought and died with him. —Reuter.

GRIM HONG KONG
 ATROCITY STORIES

Tokyo, Dec. 18.

"All prisoners of war in Hong Kong must die," Canadian Army Chaplain James Barnett, Royal Rifles, testified that he was told by a Japanese lieutenant after the fall of the Colony in 1941, as the British phase of the war crimes trials continued here today. The Rev. Mr. Barnett described the Christmas Day massacre of wounded and sick at St. Stephen's College Hospital on December 25, 1941, when 70 men were bayoneted on their hospital cots.

"I myself saw some 15 to 20 wounded men bayoneted in bed," he said.
 He revealed that when the Japanese seized the hospital, there were approximately 175 persons, including patients and staff, on the premises. After the massacre, he said, a number of dead bodies were cremated by order of the Japanese.

The 40-year-old chaplain related finding the bodies of three nurses in the hospital garden—one of them with her head virtually severed—after they had been raped. He said four other nurses in the hospital were violated.

After the first Allied bombing of Hong Kong in November, 1942, the Rev. Mr. Barnett said, the Japanese accused some patients of cheering the American planes as they passed overhead. As a result, he continued, the Japanese medical commander in Hong Kong—Dr. Saito—ordered the muster of all patients who could walk and also the hospital staff. Dr. Saito then walked among the patients, the chaplain related, and in Ward No. 5 "beat all the patients in the face" in punishment for their action.

The Australian prosecutor, Justice James Mansfield of Queensland, then introduced a series of documents relating Japanese barbarity committed against Allied civilian internees in Siam. —United Press.

Unable To Rise

Tokyo, Dec. 18.
 The Rev. Mr. Barnett testified that Japanese soldiers came to St. Stephen's College hospital in the early morning and began bayonetting to death all wounded soldiers unable to rise from their beds. Those able to walk were herded into a room where they slept until the next day.

Seven nurses, however, were taken from the room by Japanese soldiers.
 "I saw one of the nurses beaten over the head with a steel helmet and kicked and slapped by the Japanese soldiers," said the chaplain.

He asserted he did not see the nurses again until the next day when four of them told him they had been raped repeatedly during the night.
 He said the mutilated bodies of the three other nurses were found in the bushes on the hospital grounds. —Associated Press.

Mass Murder

Seven hundred Hong Kong civilians were rounded up by the Japanese, herded into small boats and when 400 yards off shore were forced into the choppy sea at bayonet point, according to evidence introduced later.

About 200 men managed to make the shore. One or two children also survived, an affidavit from Mohamed Hussain said. The Australian prosecutor, Justice Alan Mansfield introduced documents stating that through out the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong, Indians were seized and forced through torture to admit they were spies.

For example, Mohammed Ali, caught in March, 1943, making sketches of a Hong Kong street was taken to the Japanese torture chamber. When he "no longer could stand the strain" he wrote a false confession.

Eventually, 43 were executed, 12 died through torture and illness and one committed suicide.

Women Stripped

The affidavit said that Indian women were often stripped and their naked bodies burned with cigarettes, hot nails and pieces of metal while their husbands were compelled to watch.

Puntab-born Murad Ali in an affidavit said he witnessed six different ways of Japanese torture. One typical brutality consisted of binding prisoners to a grill, legs apart, lower bodies stripped and the slow burning of the "private parts" with a lighted candle.

All added: "Both women and men were treated in this manner." —United Press.

VIETNAM ATTACK

Paris, Dec. 18.

Three French soldiers and 16 Vietnamese were killed on Tuesday in a clash near Grand Lac, a Hanoi dispatch to the French press agency reported on Wednesday. —Associated Press.

New Approach To
 China Peace Urged

Washington, Dec. 17.

The Republican foreign affairs leader, Senator Arthur Vandenberg, declaring there has been a "great deal of misunderstanding" concerning America's so-called two-party foreign policy, served notice today that it should not be assumed this necessarily means Republican and Democratic agreement on such matters as Palestine, tariffs and Latin-American and Far Eastern affairs.

He declared that the measure of agreement between the two parties on foreign policy had been clearly defined to include only United Nations affairs and negotiations on European peace settlements.

Though declining to go into details, Senator Vandenberg insisted the two-party policy does not necessarily include Republican support for other aspects of the programme of Mr. James Byrnes, Secretary of State.

At a press conference on his return from New York, Senator Vandenberg also, fleetingly, publicly expressed his desire to discontinue, serving Mr. Byrnes as fulltime adviser at the Council of Foreign Ministers and United Nations meetings; secondly, scotch widespread speculation that he intends running for President as Republican in 1948 by declaring: "I am not a candidate for Presidential nomination and I anticipate no campaign on my behalf."

Expressing the belief that the "foundations of American post-war foreign policy are soundly established," Senator Vandenberg issued a statement saying: "I shall continue to hold myself available for any further personal labour that may be deemed essential by the President, or Secretary of State, but I am sure that I can now count on returning to my primary

Senate labours without further serious interruption. That is my expectation."
 "Security And Justice"
 Senator Vandenberg, who will be Chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, at the next session of Congress, declared: "I shall continue to do everything within my power to cooperate in maintaining the united American foreign policy which has been established in respect to peace settlements in Europe and established collective security and justice through the United Nations."

"I consider it vital to our national interests, I shall continue to support Mr. Byrnes in these policies. I consider he has made a superb record in the face of tremendous obstacles and that he has accomplished incalculable results for America and for a safer and happier world."

The Senator said Republicans could take no responsibility whatever for the Administration's Palestine policy.

"Asked about his party's tariff policies, Senator Vandenberg said: "That is a tricky subject and I am not prepared to go into it at present." —Reuter.

Mr. Byrnes Speaks

Washington, Dec. 17.

The Secretary of State, Mr. Byrnes, at his first general press conference in six weeks said he hoped the success of the recent international meetings in New York would speed the progress of the German and Austrian peace treaties.

He warned that agreements reached in New York not necessarily mean that all "Big Four" differences had been overcome, but he thought there was cause for rejoicing because it had been shown that agreement could be reached.

Mr. Byrnes said he shared the optimism expressed by Mr. Bevin and Mr. Molotov before they sailed on Saturday.

He said he would ask both Senators Tom Connally and Arthur Vandenberg to accompany him to the Moscow meeting of the "Big Four" next March.

He hoped Senator Connally would change his recent attitude against participating further in international conferences. —United Press.

G.I. Had
 Illegal
 Cheque

London, Dec. 17.

A cheque for £100 taken from an American soldier arrested while trying to cross the Franco-Swiss frontier led to summonses at Bow Street police court today.

Mrs. Pety F. Elipason, of Dutch birth and married to an Englishman, admitted unlawfully drawing two bills of exchange for £100 each, so that the right to receive payment was created in favour of a person resident, outside the sterling area, at a hotel in Cannes, France.

The prosecuting counsel said the Swiss authorities handed the cheque, taken from an American soldier, to the British Treasury.

Mrs. Elipason informed the Treasury she drew the cheque to obtain funds to cover a debt of honour owing to an agent who had sold a villa she owned in the South of France.

The money was principally needed to cover rates and taxes on the house, she said. The case was adjourned. —Reuter.

The Byrnes Mandate
 Re-Defined

Washington, Dec. 18.

An international conference to seek a solution of China's internal strife is jointly urged by Senator Flanders (Republican, Vermont) and James D. Murray (Democrat, Montana).

They propose in a statement that General George Marshall, the President's special representative in China, preside over a meeting which, they said, could be called within the framework of the United Nations.

"The situation in China is critical," the Senators declare. "Widespread civil war threatens an indefinite period of chaos and destruction. Representatives of all important political parties in China should be permitted to participate in the

government of China and Britain, Russia and America, the most important countries in China's foreign relations, should declare themselves out of Chinese politics."

The Senators joined in signing a statement by several prominent persons in other fields, including Owen Lattimore, former adviser to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

American Supplies

"No coalition government for peace and reconstruction has been formed in China," Murray and Flanders said, adding the belief that neither the Kuomintang nor the Communist regime can win a decisive military victory.

"The two Senators declared that "it is known" that the Communist forces are not receiving Russian supplies, although they are capturing American equipment from their opponents. "American supplies," they said, "have been identified in the eyes of all Chinese as the major factor in perpetuating chronic and indecisive civil war."

The Senators said that a relationship of trust and confidence between China and the United States must be based on full independence of China, adding: "No Chinese government can be genuinely independent if it is subject to manipulation. It is time for us to face with equal frankness the fact that no Chinese government will be regarded by its own people as independent if it is under control of a single party and if that party can only maintain itself against the wishes of a large part of the people by reliance on American support." —Associated Press.

Looking Into Spain's Future

London, Dec. 18.

An authoritative Government source said today the British diplomatic mission to Spain has been "examining the possibility" of setting up an alternative interim government to the Franco regime.

The object of this examination, he said, was to discover whether a coalition government could be established in Spain to replace the Franco dictatorship, and to carry on "stable government" until elections could be held.

He did not discuss the method by which an end of the Franco regime would be accomplished if Britain satisfied itself that an interim government could be set up within Spain. —Associated Press.

Grounds For Divorce

San Jose, Cal., Dec. 18.

Fred Vasquez is suing for divorce in the Superior Court on the ground that his wife refused to let him play his accordion in the house. —Associated Press.

Stassen
 Wants To
 Be President

Washington, Dec. 17.

The former Governor of Minnesota, Mr. Harold Stassen, announced today that he intended to seek 1948 Republican Presidential nomination on a platform of "true liberalism."

Mr. Stassen told a news conference he would establish a Washington office on January 1 to further his campaign, and "I intend to let my supporters present my name in the 1948 Republican primaries and to the Republican National Convention."

The wartime Navy captain listed a four-point platform:—

1. No big strikes and high continuous production.

2. Raising the pay of white-collar workers.

3. Opposition to extreme measures threatening the fundamental rights of labour.

4. Exercise consumer resistance against high prices. —United Press.

Wave Of
 Shoplifting

London, Dec. 18.

With Christmas only a week away, shoplifting reached a new high on Tuesday with an estimated £6,000, fished from Birmingham store counters alone.

Police and store chiefs throughout England describe the shoplifting wave as the worst since 1938 and shop executives expect a sevenfold increase during the coming week. Police charges brought are 200 per cent higher than last year and only a small percentage of shoplifters are caught due to the shortage of salesgirls and detectives.

Women are the chief offenders, stealing chiefly shoes, handkerchiefs and underwear. Store authorities state the shoplifting epidemic is due mainly to the coupon system. Women have money but no coupons with which to buy. —United Press.

MADRID TRAIN
 SMASH

Madrid, Dec. 17.

Eighteen people are now known to have been killed in the train smash near Alcala, 105 miles from Madrid, when the Madrid-Malaga-Algeciras express hit stationary goods wagons while going at full speed.

Bodies tonight were still being extricated from the wreck. Two hospital trains have arrived in Madrid with the 80 injured, including two British subjects. —Reuter.

THE WEATHER

The anticyclone is unchanged in intensity, and now covers the whole of China, S. Japan and the neighbouring seas. Pressure remains low to the N.E. of Japan and over the equatorial region. The Philippine depression appears to have filled up.

Today's Forecast: Moderate N.E. winds, freshening, fair.

Yesterday's Weather: Maximum: 69.3 deg. Fah. Minimum: 58.9 deg. Fah. Max. Rel. Humidity: 82 per cent. Sunshine: 5.2 hours. Rainfall: Nil.

Bellenger Says "No"

London, Dec. 17. The War Minister, Mr. Bellenger, was asked in the House of Commons today, whether it was with his authority that Field Marshal Montgomery stated in Trieste that "the function of maintaining order in Greece belonged to the Greek Government and police" and that British troops were not there to fight the Greeks.

He replied: "No." Then he was asked if he was aware that Field Marshal Montgomery did make this statement and whether he knew of the statement and agreed with it? Mr. Bellenger replied: "I have already answered. The answer is no."—Reuter.

JURY FAILS TO REACH VERDICT IN HAWKER CASE

After retiring for two hours, the Jury failed to reach a verdict in the case of Ramzan Syed charged with the manslaughter of Wong Shui-cheong, a hawker on October 26 in Portland Street, at the Supreme Court yesterday before the Chief Justice, Sir Henry Blackall.

After the announcement, Mr. Leo d'Almada, defending counsel, applied for bail and suggested that it be a very light one. Mr. d'Almada said accused was a Hong Kong boy and there was no likelihood of his leaving the Colony.

After Mr. Reynolds, prosecuting Counsel had stated that he had no objection. His Lordship fixed bail at \$100. Accused is to stand remanded until the At-

torney-General thinks fit to reindict him or not.

Before the trial adjournment, Mr. d'Almada made a long submission that the case, on the evidence did not warrant it going to the jury but the Chief Justice ruled against the submission.

The morning proceedings started with the cross-examination of Tsun Hak-yun, aged 13, who, in reply to Mr. d'Almada, said that because of the long time his memory had failed him. Mr. d'Almada suggested that he got his imagination to aid him. In reply to further questions, witness said the constable hit deceased on the left side. At yesterday's hearing he had said that it was on the right side that deceased had been hit.

He maintained that he saw kicks and blows given by the constable and said that the hawker was in a stooping position when struck and not lying on the ground.

The Fall

Kwok Sing, aged 12, said that he was playing in Portland Street and saw a constable chase a peanut hawker. The hawker fell down when running with a basket. The constable was several shop lengths away. The constable caught the hawker by the collar, picked him up and took him to the police van at the corner of the street. An Inspector was there. The inspector took two peanuts and told the hawker to go away.

SAIGON AIR LINE

Nanking, Dec. 18. The Chinese Government announced yesterday that it had signed an agreement with France authorizing the French to operate an airline between Shanghai and any point in Indo-China, while a Chinese airline was authorized to operate from any point in China to Saigon.—Associated Press.

The hawker then picked up his peanuts from the ground.

C.I. Mottram gave evidence stating that efforts had been made to get people who saw the incident to come forward but there was no response.

At the end of the prosecution case, Mr. d'Almada made a lengthy submission that it was a voluntary act of accused which caused the death. The evidence was very far from the kind to justify the case being left to the jury. Part of the evidence was as consistent with accused's innocence as his guilt.

Dr. Holloway's evidence was that the spleen was very friable. A muscular movement could rupture it. It was consistent with the evidence that the spleen was ruptured before accused laid hands on him.

There were numerous contradictions in the witness for the Crown. He might ask the Prosecuting Counsel which story was true.

If Wong Yau's evidence was true, how could one square it with the evidence of Dr. Holloway. Wong Yau, the adult, who said that deceased was kicked and stamped on 10 times. If Wong Yau's evidence was to be discarded on whose evidence was any reliance to be placed. On that of two small boys who could not recollect and in the course of evidence made serious contradictory statements.

No Further

In conclusion, Mr. d'Almada said that a good deal had been made of this case by certain sections of the community. Nothing was unfair in politics. He welcomed the fullest investigation. It was proper that accused should be charged, but on the evidence adduced the case should have gone no further. The magistrate in the lower court should not have committed. When the papers went to the Attorney General he, on the evidence, should not have filed the indictment.

In the afternoon, the Chief Justice said he had given careful consideration to the submissions of the defense counsel. He had to decide whether there was technical evidence that warranted leaving the case to the jury. Crown Counsel had pointed out that two of the small boys had given evidence that kicks were administered by accused before deceased fell down. If the jury believed the evidence showed kicks were given and deceased died of a ruptured spleen, accused would be technically guilty.

Border Line

It was a borderline case. There was technical evidence enough for the case to go to the jury but that did not mean that the jury should believe the evidence. They were to judge for themselves on the facts.

In his final address, Mr. d'Almada said that racial and political considerations could not affect a decision in a British court of law. A citizen had died in certain circumstances and another man had been charged with causing the death. The jury had nothing to do with any other considerations.

The jury must be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt. They must be satisfied in the same way as in some matter of grave importance affecting themselves.

Before summing up, the Chief Justice told the jury that much publicity has been given to this case by people who had tried to make it a political issue and start anti-British propaganda. He felt confident that the jury in arriving at their verdict would be guided by the evidence and not be influenced by politicians of Canton or the rabble of Kowloon.

Whatever might be the system of others, the British system was to try a man on the evidence and on the evidence alone.

In summing up, His Lordship said that unlike most cases, it was most difficult to get a clear picture of what really happened.

ST. THOMAS MORE ASSOCIATION

The inaugural meeting of the St. Thomas More Catholic Association was held at the Catholic Centre, 1st Floor, King's Building at 6.30 p.m. on December 17. About one hundred members were present and a very successful social party was held after the business meeting was concluded.

Mr. E. V. Lederhofer was elected President for 1947, and the following members were elected to the committee: Mrs. K. Grant, Mrs. P. Corra, Mrs. H. D. Bidwell, O. A. A. Macdonald, J. Whelan and A. J. ...

DAKOTA FOUND WRECKED

Shanghai, Dec. 17. The Central Air Transport Corporation Dakota plane which was missing within forty miles of Shanghai during the week-end with five occupants and half a ton of banknotes on board, crashed in the hills near Changshing, on the border of Chekiang and Kiangsu, it was stated officially today.

All of the five Chinese occupants, two of whom were passengers, were killed. A search is now being made for the banknotes which the plane was carrying to Shanghai.—Reuter.

THE HAND AT THE WINDOW

The prosecution asked for a serious view to be taken in larceny cases from the Tai Koo Dockyard when 'Se To-ming', odd job coolie, was sentenced to six months' hard labour for the theft of a clock from the s.s. "Ning Hai" on Tuesday morning.

Sub-Inspector Manson said that at about 11 a.m. Mr. W. J. Bunney, chief officer, was inside the cabin when he saw a hand come through the window and take the clock. He immediately ran out of the cabin and arrested the defendant.

Hector Lee All Day In Witness Box

Standing in the witness box throughout yesterday to complete his evidence, Hector Lee, alias Li Yick-dor, claimed that he maintained direct contact with the Chinese guerrilla chief in the New Territories and supplied him with important information throughout the period he was employed by the Japanese Gendarmarie.

The trial of Lee on five charges under the 1940 Defence Regulations entered the third day yesterday before Mr. Justice E. H. Williams at the Criminal Sessions. Mr. A. J. Clifford, Crown Counsel, assisted by Inspector J. Bradley of the Special Branch, is conducting the prosecution. Mr. B. Bernacchi, instructed by Mr. F. H. Losby, is defending Lee.

In the witness box yesterday Lee flatly denied the allegation that he assisted the Japanese gendarmes in arresting and interrogating under torture two persons suspected of being guerrillas.

Referring to the fifth count concerning the arrest of Chung Hong and So Wan, accused alleged that he merely acted on the instructions of Venpin (Crown witness) who was an interpreter attached to the Japanese Gendarmarie.

He said that while he was playing mah-jong with another Chinese mitter at 390, Temple Street in Sept. 1944, Venpin brought a woman into the house and asked them to go out with him to arrest her husband for allegedly firing rockets.

Lee said he and the other mitter went with Venpin and the woman and arrested Chung and So when they were pointed out by the woman.

Escaped

In October 1943, Lee went on to say, he was arrested by Tsui Kwok-ching (who has been executed for high treason) and Lee Ping-tong for political offences. On the way to the Gendarmarie H.Q., he succeeded in escaping. He went to No. 64, Parkes Street, occupied by a woman friend who was now his wife, and hid himself until the beginning of 1944, after bribing Tsui and Lee with 25,000 yen to square the matter.

Through his wife, whose elder brother was an Allied agent in Canton, he maintained indirect contact with her brother and passed information regarding Japanese ship movements from Hainan to Hong Kong and from Hong Kong to Formosa.

In September, 1943, he came to know Chung Hong-yau, officer of the Kwangtung People's Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Force for Hong Kong and Kowloon, with headquarters in Yim Tin.

From time to time, Lee claimed, he met Chung and gave information about Japanese troop movements. Chung told him to spy inside the Japanese Gendarmarie.

Following a guerrilla raid on the Japanese post at Shataukok on Sept. 30, 1944, Lee added, the Japanese started training police men and mitter for a campaign against guerrillas in Yim Tin. They were given exercises in throwing hand-grenades.

The campaign was supposed to be carried out five days after the completion of their training.

A Warning

With this knowledge of the training to which he himself took part, he informed the guerrilla head, Chung, who had his headquarters at Yim Tin.

Kowloon Price Contrd

Some twenty Kowloon stores and market stalls were summoned before Mr. W. A. Blair-Kerr at Kowloon Court yesterday for overcharging on various commodities, particularly fresh milk and hard sweets.

The Kowloon Confectionary, 68 Nathan Road, was fined \$75 for selling an 8-oz. bottle of fresh milk at 80 cents, 25 cents in excess of the fixed price. For similar offences, the Indian Curry Cafe, of 364 Nathan Road, was fined \$75; the Kam Kok Yuen Cafe, 45 Woosung Street, \$100; the Singapore Cafe, 639 Nathan Road, \$75; the Sun Kong Cafe, 43 Woosung Street, \$125; and Rays Cafe, 623 Nathan Road, \$25. Fines varied according to the size of the premises and of the overcharge.

The V. Gherikoff Confectionary, 188 Nathan Road, was fined \$100 for overcharging \$1.25 on half a pound of hard sweets. Other offenders on a similar charge were the Tai Luk Cafe, 584 Shanghai Street, fined \$30; the Tsun Heong Co., 183 Lai-chikok Road, fined \$25; and the Run Sum Tea House, 322 Shanghai Street, \$30.

A fine of \$200 was imposed on the Kin On Drug Co., 200 Shanghai Street, for overcharging \$2.60 on 10 tablets of Bayer's Aspirin. Other summonses were for overcharges on fresh oranges, electric light bulbs, Gibb's Dentifrice, sanitary napkins, soap, and condensed milk.

Cheung Chau War Crimes Trial

Testifying at yesterday's War Crimes Trial of Sgt. Honda Isamu, who appeared before No. 7 War Crimes Court, Lam Heng, a Chinese woman, stated that she was beaten and given the water torture by accused.

The case is being heard before Lieut. Col. C. F. Ball (President), Major M. I. Ormsby and Captain R. B. R. Gortley, Members.

Major E. C. Lai, J.A.G. Branch, is Prosecuting Officer. The accused, who is charged with committing a war crime in that he, at Cheung Chau Island in the Colony of Hong Kong, between Dec. 24, 1944 and Jan. 13, 1945, when officer in charge of the Cheung Chau Kempeitai, was in violation of the laws and usages of war, concerned in maltreatment causing physical suffering to Cheng Wo-kwai, Lam Ah-heng, Man Fook, Man Yuk-mui, Man Sul-wa, Choi Seng, Cheung Wah-yuk and Wong Ming also known as Ah Ming and Fook Tai, all Chinese civilian residents of Cheung Chau Island, is defended by Mr. Takano Juniro assisted by Lieut. J. N. Whitehorn.

Cheng Wo-kwai, who is engaged in the fishing business, said that he was arrested by the Japanese on Dec. 28, 1944. He was interrogated by accused on two occasions and beaten with a bamboo pole. He was beaten all over and suffered much pain. Parts of his body were swollen as a result.

For some two months after his release four days before Chinese New Year he still suffered from pains caused by the beatings.

Answering Mr. Takano, he said he was accused of stealing rice. Four sacks of rice had been stolen.

Beaten And Kicked

Lam Ah-heng said she was arrested by the Japanese on Dec. 24, 1944, with Cheung Wah-yuk, Fook Tai, Choi Seng and Wong Ming, in connection with the loss of some rice. She was interrogated three times by accused. She was first beaten and then asked if she knew what had taken place.

The orchestra of the late Major Glen Miller will be featured in this week's "Swing Club" which meets at the NAAFI club, Kowloon tonight at 8 o'clock. All who enjoy listening to discs of British and American Swing bands and orchestras are cordially invited.

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Money Market

Chinese National Currency stood steady yesterday as after opening at 58 cents for futures and 54 cents for spot (2 for CN\$1,000). It improved to 61 cents and 56 cents respectively at the close.

Gold appreciated in value, closing at \$311.25 a tael after opening in the morning at \$307.60.

Fluctuations ranged between \$15.47 and \$15.75.

U.S. dollars were in demand at \$2.77. Sterling and Australian pounds were unchanged at \$15.55 and \$12.55 respectively.

Shanghai, Dec. 18. Closing quotations on the Shanghai market today were as follows:

Buying Selling
Gold 338,000 337,800
U.S. Dollar 6,300 6,400
Hong Kong Dollar 1,250 1,260
—Associated Press.

THE MAHARAJA OF JODHPUR

Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur, who is on a six-day visit to Hong Kong, arrived by air at Kai Tak yesterday, and is staying at Government House.

A dinner party in his honour was given by H.E. the Governor last evening.

An exhibition of Chinese water colour painting by Ho Chai Yuen will be held in Room 202, Alexandra Building, from Friday to Sunday, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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Readers' Letters

CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



"Well, well, Milo Popigari! What brings YOU around this part of town?"

BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By Shepard Barclay

"The Authority on Authorities"

DON'T TAKE IT CHEAPLY

Taking a trick as cheaply as possible with the lowest card that will win it for you is not necessarily economical. On plenty of occasions it is more economical by far to take it with the biggest card you have. That is so when squandering of high cards produces an economy of vital entries into one holding of your side or the holding opposite it. No high card can be rated arbitrarily in value according to its mere height. Its true value, in relation to your contract, depends on the way that card can be used to put maximum value into other assets.

East and South played Jow. Little did South think, when he put the 3 on the first trick, that he thereby beat his own contract. But that is just what he did. The second, third and fourth tricks were the club A, K and 10. To the Q, whereat East sent back the heart 6, which West won with the K. The heart 2 lead then made the Q and A fall together. Desperate to get back into the dummy so he could run the three established clubs, South led toward the spade Q, but East downed that with the K, then returned the diamond J. Consequently the defenders set South three tricks.

West was clearly marked by the bidding and the lead as having the heart K, so South should have overhauled his own J on the first trick with the A or else—should still—should have played low from dummy and used his A to win. That would have assured him a re-entry to dummy after taking two high clubs and giving up a third. Nothing then could have prevented his getting nine tricks before the defense took more than one in hearts, one in clubs, and two in diamonds.

Tomorrow's Question

With five spades to the Q-J-10, five hearts to the K-Q-J-10, one little diamond and two little clubs, why is it sometimes wise to make an opening 1-Spade bid in third hand position, but extremely dangerous as dealer?

come to the Centre bringing applicants whose firms or departments provide transport as a courtesy to their workers and to save time.

We sympathize with your correspondent's desire to give warm clothing to street sleepers, and he will be glad to know that a large quantity of clothing and old blankets is being given to destitutes. European summer clothing would not be likely to keep these unfortunate warm.

J. CRUTTWELL, Secretary, Hong Kong Social Welfare Council.

Cheap

Sir,—The Royals ask for it. It is regrettable that the majority have to suffer for the actions of a few, but such is the world we are living in. A standard has to be followed, and man judged accordingly; but to vent one's feelings of irritation resulting from a inferiority complex on a charitable institution and a religious body whose activities are not in the least responsible for the actions that caused the irritation, is to say the least, cheap, despicable and cowardly.

Retribution

Sir,—We would like space in your paper to air our views about the demolition of the Japanese War Memorial on Mount Cameron. We understand that local contractors are to be engaged for the job, which we think is all wrong. The work should be done by Japs, the same Japs that were here during the occupation and caused the unsightly object to be erected. Treat these men as War Criminals, and to watch over

them to see that they do not slack, bring ex P.O.W.s (volunteers) from the United Kingdom, Canada, U.S.A., and from all other countries—whose P.O.W.s in Japanese hands were so cruelly forced to build the memorial. Thousands of such men would jump at the chance of renewing old acquaintances with the Japs under these revised conditions. These guards should be paid a very high wage whilst living here, the money being taken from public funds of the various countries or could take the form of a gift subscribed by the people of these countries in appreciation of the work and hardships endured by these men during the war.

The Japanese were responsible for the thing being put up, now let's make them pull the ruddy thing down again—brick by brick!

R.N. & E.M.

Mail And V.I.P.s

Sir,—I submit that strong protests should be made to the Authorities responsible for interference with air mails between the United Kingdom and this Colony. It has always been considered a maxim that mail took preference over persons, but within the last few weeks there appear to have been at least two occasions when this order has been reversed. I cannot believe that any male or female be sufficiently V.I.P. to warrant the inconvenience, expense and disruption incurred by Business Houses and individuals, when their mail is delayed. Perhaps the Post-Master-General can be persuaded to make a statement on the matter.

BUSINESS

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IN MEMORIAM

LAMBERT — In memory of Lionel Ernest Lambert who was killed at North Point December 18th, 1941.

ANDERSON — In proud and precious memory of Lieutenant Donald James Neville Anderson of the R.K.V.D.C., who died in Hong Kong on the 19th of December, 1941. Mother, Father, Phyllis, Joyce and Derek.

DEATH

CAVALIER — On Dec. 4, 1946, in his sleep, from heart failure, Arthur Ramden Cavalier, aged 64, late Colonial Civil Service, Hongkong, beloved husband of Kitty Cavalier, Fanling, Crondall, Hants.

ATOMIC ENERGY

Since last May the House of Commons has had before it a Bill to empower the Minister for Supply to promote the development of atomic energy and to control its unauthorised production and the publication of information endangering national security. This measure, as Mr. Attlee said in moving the second reading, is an earnest of Britain's readiness to fulfil obligations that may fall on her under any plan of international control devised by the United Nations' Commission on Atomic Energy. Unfortunately, progress in the shaping of such a plan has been very slow. The shadow of the atomic bomb has lain dark over the nations, but efforts to banish it so far have split on a fundamental difference in the American and Russian conceptions of how the frightful new weapon should be treated. America has the secret and possesses actual stocks of the bomb. She will not consent to divulge the one and destroy the other, except under the most stringent safeguards. In her view, the Russian plan to outlaw the manufacture and use of atomic weapons is insufficient. She insists, with very good reason, upon a rigid system of international control and inspection.

UNO's Atomic Commission has investigated the nature of the safeguards needed. In August the control committee, after hearing Mr. Gromyko's further explanations of the Russian plan and his deprecation of a system of inspection, asked the scientific and technical committee for a report. This body of 12 scientists found that control of atomic energy was technologically feasible, but that only appropriate safeguards "at each stage of production" could prevent diversion of material or installations for military purposes. The scientists, however, considered it beyond their province to indicate methods by which effective control could be achieved; and, as the Atomic Commission has now decided to examine these for itself. This implication is that international safeguards, as distinct from simply outlawing, are deemed to be indispensable to the banning of atomic warfare. Inspection has been found technically practicable, there is unlikely to be agreement on control. Mr. Baruch has urged the Russian delegate to withdraw his objections in view of the modifications of the Soviet viewpoint, but if there is to be no agreement the race for pre-eminence in this deadly field will go on, with the United States, far in the lead. The British Government has decided that it can wait no longer to provide legislative authority for its own atomic energy schemes. These necessarily assume the character of a State Monopoly. The dangers of research and manufacture, the importance of secrecy, and the expectation of ultimate international control, alike dictate that the whole process should remain in Government hands, even at some risk of restricting scientific progress and checking the dissemination of legitimate scientific information. Britain foresees an expenditure of at least \$30 million on the development of atomic energy, and her research establishment, the Minister for Supply lamented, is already depriving the nation of labour and materials badly needed for housing and in-

Is This Why? Sir,—There has recently appeared in your paper a spate of letters from disgruntled servicemen regarding their being cold-shouldered by civilians in this Colony. This state of affairs is partly correct and I give below some brief reasons although there are others:—
1. A great number of the original and best types of Servicemen here at the Liberation have been transferred or have returned Home for demobilisation.
2. Those that remain contain a high percentage of youths previously in civilian-reserved occupations and now embodied in the Forces. These are a grumbling type, liked neither by civilians nor their Service comrades.
3. The average civilian is too busy rehabilitating himself to have the time or energy to entertain Service personnel who appear to have little work to do and all day in which to do it.
4. Few civilians are likely to entertain Servicemen in their temporary cramped and doubled-up hotel quarters when their own flats in Kowloon and elsewhere are still occupied by the Forces.
UNSYMPATHETIC.
Amused
Sir,—I was rather amused to read the letters of D.H.W. and One Who Survived. While quite seeing their point, having many times encountered the baleful gaze of civvies in this colony, I can't help thinking that your correspondents' attitude is mainly governed by a certain amount of inferiority complex. Personally I never fail to be amused by the so obviously artificial air of superiority affected by many Englishmen and women, particularly in the presence of those who they probably classify as "a necessary evil." Listening to the carefully cultivated "Oxford" accents, and observing the exaggerated gestures, I am reminded rather forcibly of badly acted plays seen in small provincial theatres. Besides being amused I am sometimes annoyed that bad manners should be displayed in

public by what are, after all, representatives of Great Britain, for obvious disdain and dislike shown to one by a total stranger is one of the worst forms of bad manners.
I hope that these few remarks will suggest to some of my fellow servicemen that they should reconsider their views as to whether they would enjoy the friendship of such ill-mannered and supercilious people. I definitely would not.
W.W.

There We Have It Sir,—The time, methinks, is long since past when you should have said "This correspondence must now cease" with reference to the British civilian-versus-serviceman bickering in your columns.
Today, I see, there are two further letters from servicemen, D.H.W. and One Who Survived, the contents of which only serve to fan the flames of the feud so obviously exaggerated by both sides. Is it necessary for this?
I am a member of the Forces; I did not wish to come to Hong Kong; I did not wish to go to Burma, either, but the Service chiefs evidently thought it advisable for me to do 18 months there before sending me to Hong Kong; in May, I like Hong Kong, and to be quite frank, I just do not care one jot whether a civilian speaks to me or not—if one did speak to me, judging by the conversations I have bet a forehead to overhear (and a man would have to be stone deaf not to overhear some of our civilian friends' voices anywhere within a region of ten feet!). I should be horribly bored and only too glad when the pseudo-Oxford accented voice ceased, and I could look at the beauty of Hong Kong.
So there we have it; I am not happy at being kept away from England and the folk who matter to me, but I certainly am not unhappy to be kept away from the folk in Hong Kong, who could not matter less to me.

Hong Kong Salvage To Last Two Years

At least two years of salvage work will have to be finished before Hong Kong's wreck littered Harbour is tidy again.

In an interview with a Harbour official yesterday I was told: "There are nine major wrecks still lying under water, and a great many operations will need to be carried out before the total clearance of ships sunk here during the war is completed."

Up to now seven major wrecks and over a hundred smaller crafts from alongside the various jetties and quays have been raised by the Royal Navy since September last year.

This type of salvage in Hong Kong is divided into two sections—the Naval anchorage where there are still five wrecks, and the commercial water areas of the port where there are five.

These wrecks will have to be broken up by Britain's latest underwater cutting device

which during the war was one of the Royal Navy's most closely guarded secrets. Known as the Oxy-torch, it actually produces a cutting flame under water three times more intense than anything previously invented and is capable of cutting through super-imposed structures and heavy metal sections.

Cut In Three An official said yesterday: "The sunken Japanese wreck now under the 100-ton crane at Kowloon docks has been severed in three pieces by the Oxy-torch and it is hoped that these will be removed soon by special heavy lifting craft. The remainder of the vessels now in port are all too badly damaged by bombing to be raised as complete ships and so they will be dispersed by explosives and lifted free."

"This applies to vessels which are not near to key structure, vulnerable underwater cables and aqueducts and valuable buildings."

But apart from the many difficulties attached to this work, the majority of the sunken vessels are loaded with

dustry. But, in the present condition of the world, no Great Power, least of all highly vulnerable Britain, can afford to neglect atomic development, while striving unceasingly for international control as the only alternative to universal catastrophe.

COMMON SENSE

Red Cross

Sir,—The British Red Cross, China Commission, was terminated on June 30, 1946, leaving only three Welfare Officers who had been seconded to the Government for special service in the administration of Rosary Hill. Some members of the public do not seem to be aware of this, and it should be pointed out that there has been no distribution of clothing or food made by British Red Cross authorities since June, 1946.

AMY SUTHERLAND, B.R.C. Welfare Officer, Rosary Hill Relief Centre.

Social Welfare

Sir,—May we ask the courtesy of your columns to clear up certain misunderstandings on the subject of the distribution of clothing, which appear to be troubling your correspondents Jack Frost and Beggar-A-Begging. This clothing has nothing to do with the British Red Cross. It is collected in the United States. It is, therefore, exclusively European in style; moreover, most of it is far from new and a very large proportion is summer clothing.

Key Men

Trained key men came forward to form the nucleus of the salvage teams which were recruited from local Chinese. Most important of these are the riggers. The heavy steel lifting cables used for salvage work are nine inches in circumference and have a breaking strain of 260 tons. As many as eight of these wires are used on occasions when lifts of over 1,000 tons are taken.

Salvage work in Hong Kong has encountered many difficulties. For example, the Yau-mai Ferry turned over twice while being lifted and later it was discovered by naval divers that she contained about 600 tons of oil. This oil is a frequent problem and may be pumped out when soft but when it is harder, hoses or even buckets have to be used. But as the harbour bed is mainly soft severe methods have not yet been necessary.



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"GOOD NEWS" FOR THE WORLD UNO's Hopes On Subject Of Atomic Control Russia Asks For More Study

Lake Success, N.Y. Dec. 17.
Dr. Manuel Vallarta, of Mexico, presiding today at the "last lap" meeting of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission here, said the Commission's work of the past two weeks might mean "good news" for the world regarding atomic control.

"It is clear to all that an international control agency is needed," he said. "In what has been done in the past two weeks there is much cause for encouragement. We may even be able to offer the people good news for which they have been waiting."

The Commission was studying the new proposals for atomic control by Mr. Bernard Baruch, permanent United States member, to establish a world atomic control pact, not subject to the Security Council veto.

Baruch's plan provides that an international control authority shall have the right to levy punishment on individuals and nations for breaches of the proposed treaty. Baruch told the Commission:

"I urge two claims upon your attention:

"1. To adopt and proclaim these basic principles that have forced themselves upon us and our work.

"2. To proceed to do it now. The time has come to match our words with action. We are under the compulsion

placed upon us by the General Assembly. The great and solemn debate held by that body on disarmament was closed last Saturday night with an expression of unanimous support by all the nations represented. It is a declaration that may be—must be—high in historical importance because of its effect upon all the peoples of the world.

"A new spirit has come into being. It is our privilege and duty to give flesh to that spirit. The injunction has been laid upon the atomic commission to proceed expeditiously to the development of a formula of action."

He added:—"A further survey of the practical and operational elements of the problem by an informal group composed of our political and scientific advisers has established for all participants a final and unanimous conclusion—for the protection of the world against destructive uses of atomic energy there must be brought into existence an international control agency.

"However, we must first establish a general framework within which solution will be sought. We need determination of policy on the basis of which we can elaborate in detail, the characteristics which the 'international control agency must have if it is effectively to fulfil our mandate."

"The resolutions proposed by the United States are offered to provide such a basis. We have no pride in authorship but we cannot in justice to our trust accept changes in purpose. We have debated long

Speaking with great emotion, Mr. Baruch, concluded: "I hope this is to be the programme for which the world has striven through all recorded history because man in his soul is peaceful and life-loving. Deep inside him he knows he can live in security only by force of law and never by law of force."

"We have accepted the duty and we must proceed promptly to its fulfilment. In the very forefront of that effort lies the control of atomic energy. If we are able satisfactorily to solve that vast problem, the others will come easier."

Britain's Support

Sir Alexander Cadogan (Britain), supporting Mr. Baruch's proposals, said: "Mr. Baruch has provided us with a set of principles which should guide us in our task. If, as I hope, the Atomic Energy Commission can include the findings of the Baruch proposals in its report to the Security Council and if the Council can adopt this our report, the world will recognise that a great step forward has been made."

General MacNaughton (Canada) also supported Mr. Baruch in his proposals, saying: "This year has been one of anxiety. What we need now is a report of this Commission which will give a message of hope to the world."

Mr. Hasluck (Australia) said: "It seems to us that the recent decisions of the General Assembly show that the whole of the United Nations are prepared to stand behind the fundamental principles of the Atomic Energy Commission. Australia is prepared to accept Mr. Baruch's proposals," he declared.

Soviet Attitude

A key to the success of today's meeting of the Atomic Energy Commission was the attitude of the Soviet delegation. Mr. Gromyko, the Soviet representative in the Commission, neither accepted nor rejected the proposals made by Mr. Baruch, which he said, required more time for study.

He made several criticisms. Mr. Gromyko said: "The Soviet delegation is not prepared to speak on the substance of Mr. Baruch's proposals as there has been no time to study them in relation to the disarmament resolution taken by the General Assembly only two

(Continued at foot of next Col.)

MOSCOW GIVES THE LOW-DOWN

Moscow, Dec. 17.
"Trud," citing American press comment, today said: "The reactionary Lewis pursued in the strike his personal political aims which have nothing in common with the struggle for the lawful demands of his nation."

"Lewis, with Right Wing circles and the Republican Party are well-known, planned an attempt to direct the growing movement of workers into channels favourable to monopolistic trusts." — United Press.

Turkey Reinforces Border

Salonica, Dec. 17.
Turkey has reinforced her frontier posts along the whole length of the Greek-Turkey border in Thrace after guerilla activities in that area, according to reliable reports here.

Greek Air Force Spitfires today scattered thousands of leaflets in the mountain areas where guerillas are believed to have hiding places, promising them amnesty if they surrender before the end of the year.

Guerilla activities have slowed down recently, though minor incidents have been reported in the past 48 hours.—Reuter.

They Wanted Xmas At Home

London, Dec. 17.
Five hundred SEAC troops, who at first refused to board the liner "Eastern Prince" in the King George V Dock in Glasgow today were later, with five exceptions, persuaded to join the ship.

The "Eastern Prince" then left for the Far East, carrying 495 men, with 70 others who last week walked off the "Empress of Scotland" at Liverpool. The 500 men, who arrived at Glasgow in trains bearing chalked slogans "We want Christmas at home," staged a sitdown "strike" in the railway siding beside the dock.

After Scottish Command War Minister, described the men's action as "indiscipline" and stated that the accommodation represented a considerable improvement on the wartime scale. Rations were on the approved scale.

When Mr. W. Gallacher, Communist, asked if it was not obvious that conditions must have been very bad for the men to take such action, Mr. Winston Churchill, Conservative leader, interjected with the question: "What would happen if it had been in Soviet Russia?"

Replying to Lord Winterston, Conservative, who suggested that similar incidents after the first World War were supposed to have been due to Communist agitation, Mr. Bellenger said he very much doubted if there was very great Communist influence in this vessel.—Reuter.

Commons Statement
Speaking in the House of Commons today on last week's incident when 300 soldiers disembarked from the "Empress of Scotland", Mr. John Bellenger, days ago. We believe the atomic energy proposals should be studied in relation to the general question of disarmament.

"However, in a preliminary way I see that Mr. Baruch's proposals are not in all respects in conformity with the General Assembly resolution.

"For example, the General Assembly resolution does not mention the veto because if it had as is done in the Baruch proposal, no unanimity would have been possible."

Mr. Gromyko continued: "In dealing with the sanctions which it is proposed to take against the violators that is another question which must be considered."—Reuter.

Unanimity Wanted

Mr. Baruch appeared sorely disappointed at the delay but finally agreed to the postponement of the Commission's deliberations until Friday. He told the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission that he had intended to ask a vote on the American proposals on Tuesday.

A majority of the Commission members expressed approval of the American plan. The issue raised by Gromyko—that a vote Tuesday might threaten unanimity later—found some support, however.

China's Quo Tai-chi supported the underlying principles of the Baruch proposal, but said he hoped unanimity would be achieved.—Associated Press.

"Puppet" Worked For SEAC

London, Dec. 17.
Admiral Viscount Mountbatten disclosed at a luncheon today that Pridi Panomyong, former Minister of Siam, kept in wireless touch with the Southeast Asia Command Headquarters after the Japanese had overrun his country.

He had been appointed by the Japanese to the Council of Regency, and the Japanese did not realise that after he took on this job he began to organise and direct the Siamese resistance movement.

"Ruth," as he was known to Southeast Asia Command, by the end of the war had organised sabotage and guerilla units comprising 60,000 fighting men.

Pridi will arrive at Southampton on the "Queen Elizabeth" from America on Thursday, and among his engagements is a luncheon at Buckingham Palace.

He is lending a goodwill mission, and as a guest of the Government he will attend an official reception on Friday.—Reuter.

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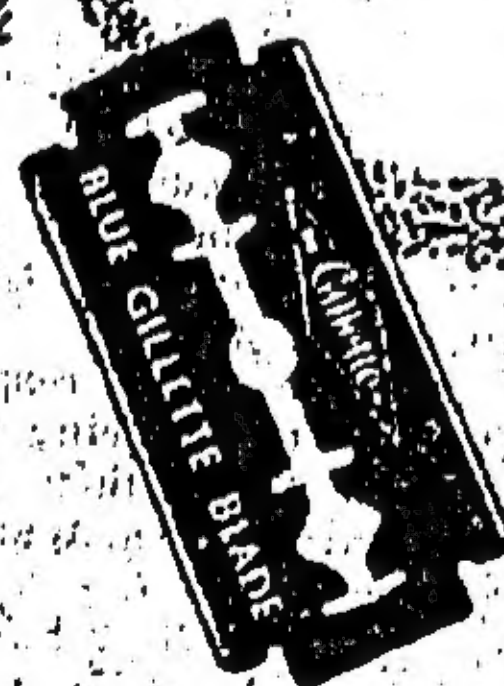
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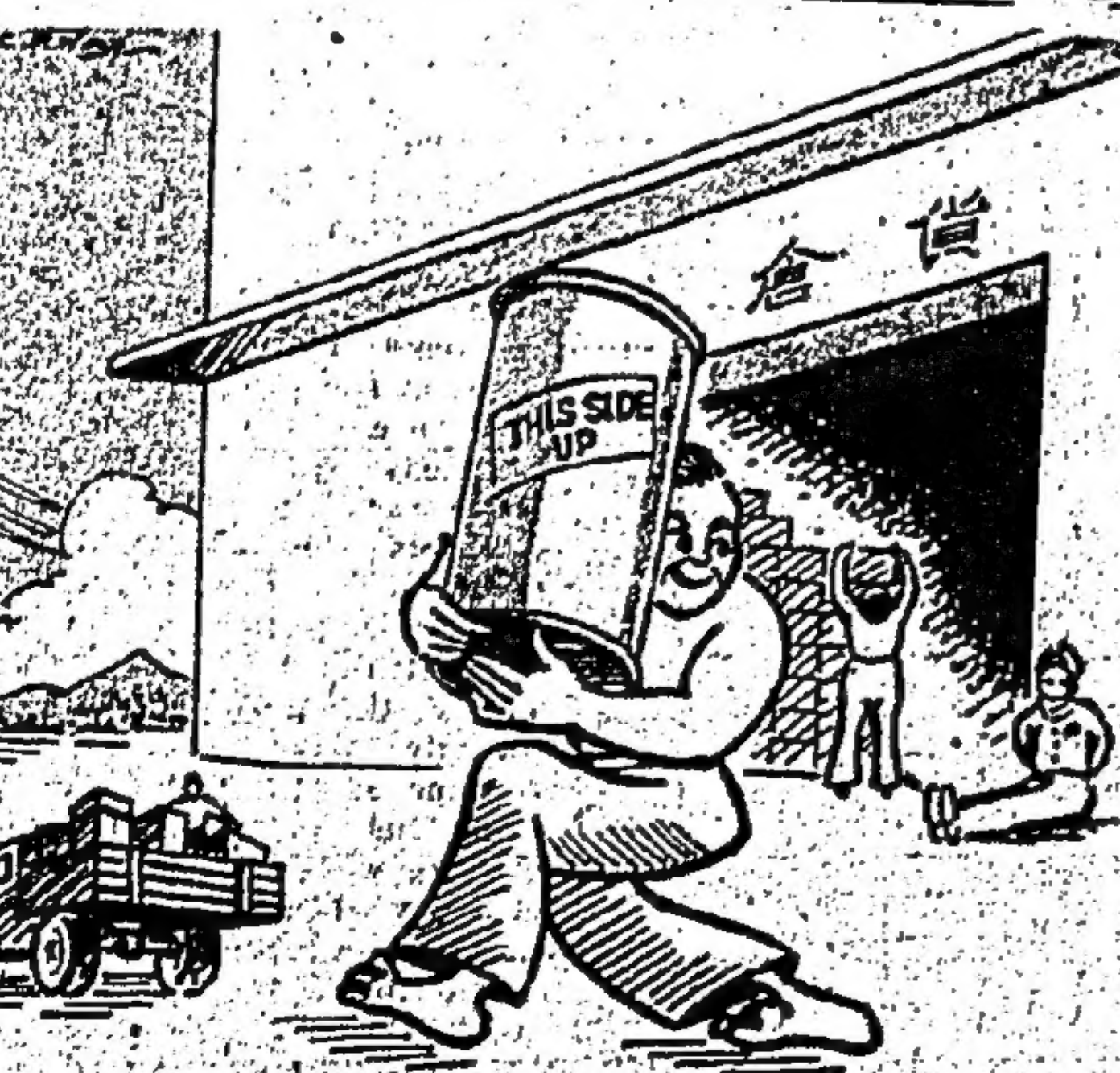
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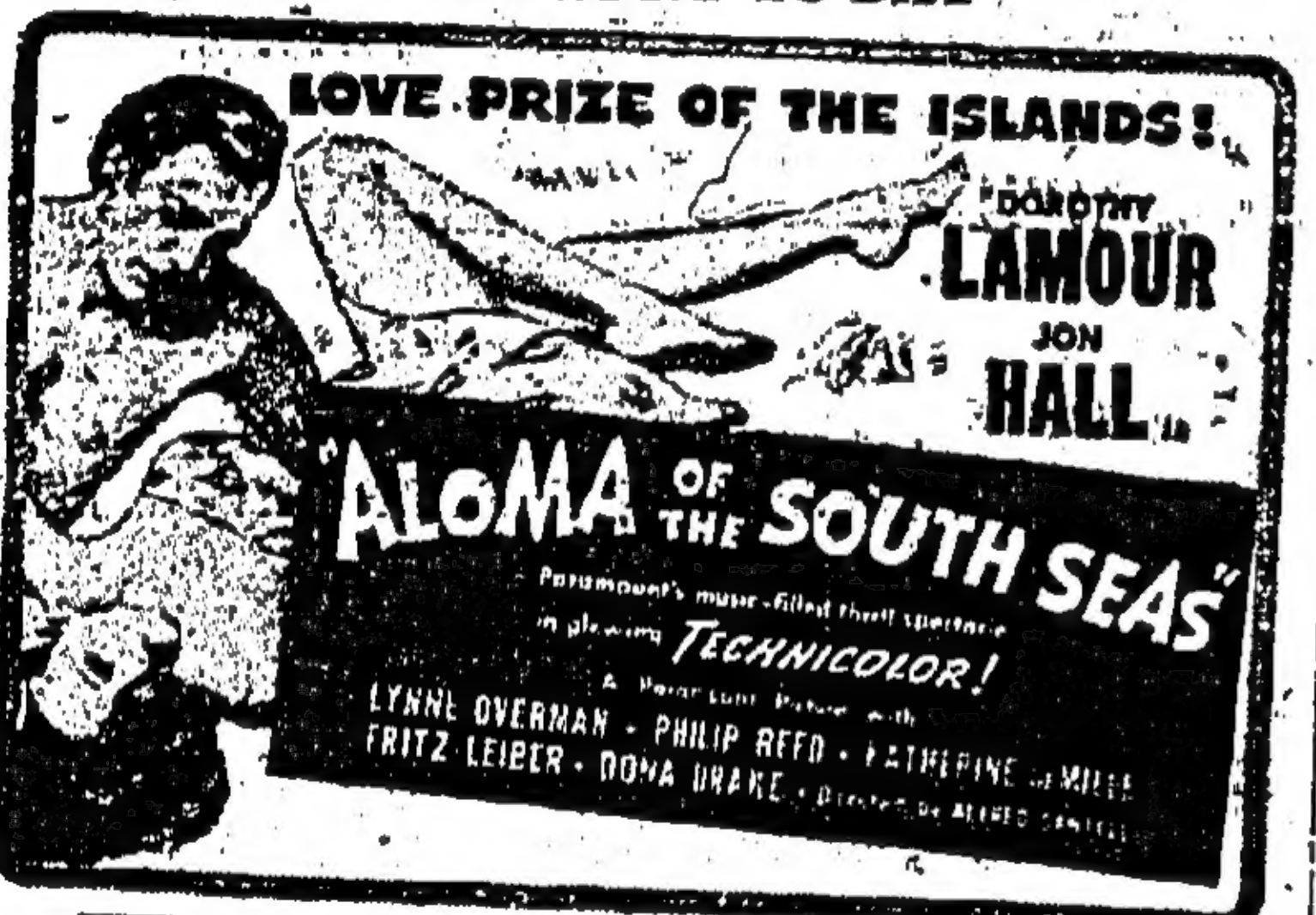
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BLUM GETS A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Paris, Dec. 17.
"My only motive for forming a one-party Government is to give urgent first-aid at a moment when a difficult situation is in danger of becoming perilous," declared M. Leon Blum, France's veteran Socialist leader, when presenting his all-Socialist "care-taker" Cabinet to the National Assembly this afternoon.
The life of the Government is, in any case, limited in time by constitutional considerations," he said. "Its programme is to put an end to public disquiet, to ensure that in the immediate future measures prepared by the preceding Government shall be voted, to establish unquestioned equilibrium of the ordinary budget for 1947, to vote certain other necessary laws before the end of the year, and finally, if possible, to promote the rebirth of confidence of the country in its own destiny and future."

After stressing the need for sacrifice and for belief in the French power of recovery, M. Blum said:
"In the present state of human civilization no great question is capable of complete solution purely within the framework of the nation or even of its empire. The world is going through a process of painful growth and is becoming one immense union, and it is in this growth in the solidarity of states, peoples and men that the supreme guarantee of peace resides."
"We shall contribute with ardour and faith to the work of international organizations born of war. We shall carefully cultivate our friendships. Together with our allies and friends and with other interested powers we shall endeavour to discover the surest means of preventing a resurgence of German war industries, particularly in the Ruhr and the Rhineland."

The Saar

"We shall continue negotiations for economic attachment (to France) of the Saar."
There was great applause from all parties when M. Blum rose to speak. The Soviet and American Ambassadors were among those who watched from the Distinguished Visitors' Gallery.

M. Blum told the Assembly that the essential task of his Government in the five weeks to which its life is constitutionally limited, will be to balance the ordinary budget for last year.
According to the balance sheet prepared by the outgoing Finance Minister, M. Robert Schumann, this involves economies of 190,000 million francs, out of a total state expenditure

HE WANTED TO BE ALONE

Paris, Dec. 17.
The discovery by the police two days ago of 38-year-old Raoul Dauterive, who had spent his last 18 years in bed because he was "tired" and wanted time to think, had its sequel today when his 72-year-old father was arrested and charged with "culpable negligence."
The father told the examining magistrate today that his son had an attack of mumps when he was 16 and had been "strange" ever since. Asked why his son was not given medical attention, the father said: "He wanted to be alone, so we didn't want to upset him."—Reuter.

Vote Of Confidence

at present estimated at over 650,000 million francs.
After his speech, M. Blum was given a vote of confidence by 580 votes to 16. Communists, Socialists and Popular Republicans voted for M. Blum, with only 16 Independent Rightists voting against.
M. Blum's Government is confidently expected to last until the second or third week in January, when it will rest with the President of the Republic, who will by then have been elected, to invest someone with the task of forming the first true Government of the Fourth Republic.—Reuter.

Suspension Of Jew Revisionists

Basle, Dec. 18.
Dr. L. Lauterbach, head of the organization department of the World Zionist Congress, announced today that the rights of the Executive of the United Zionist Revisionists in America have been suspended.

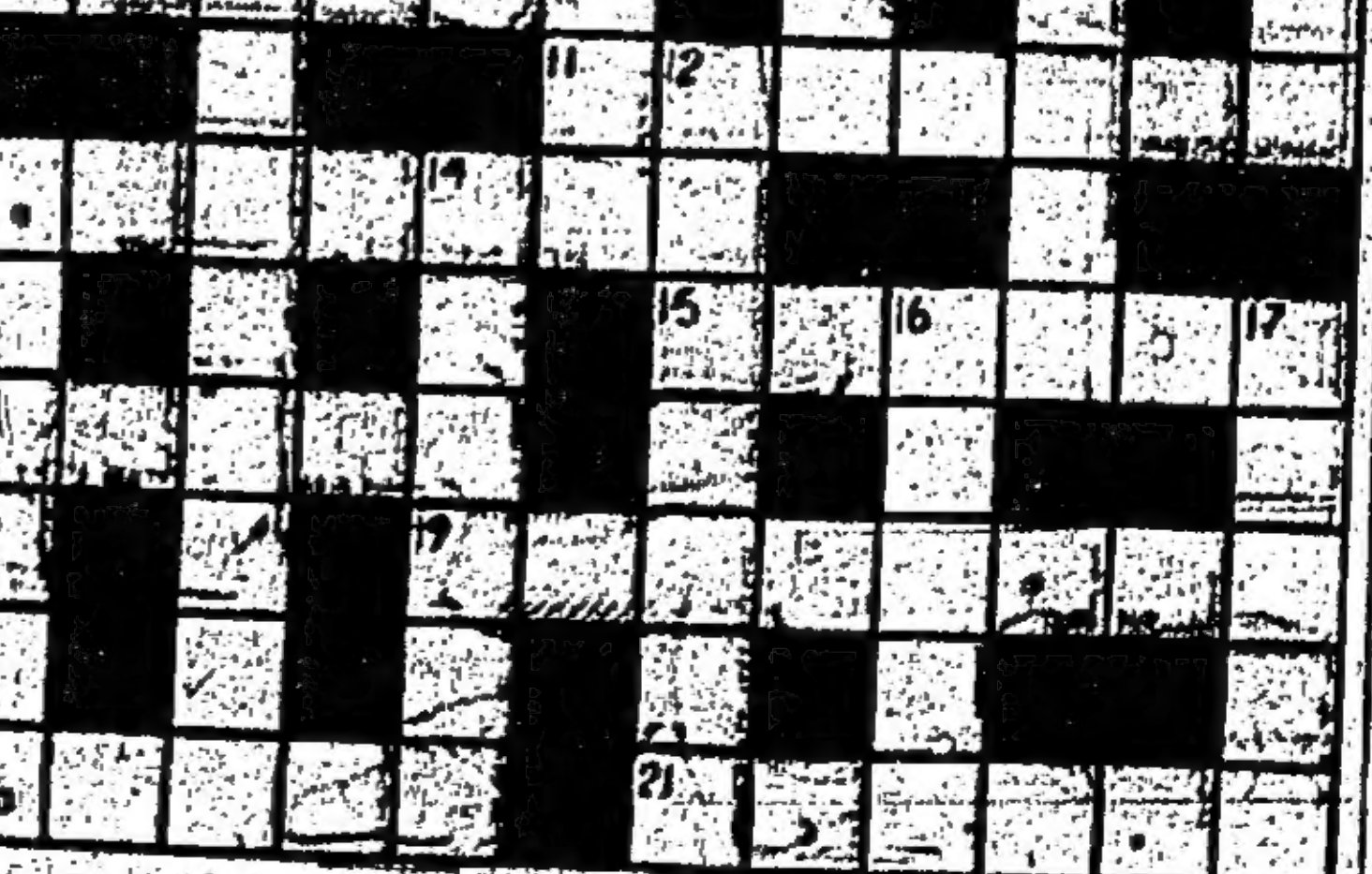
Lauterbach said the suspension was made pending a final verdict of the Court of Honour in the case of six American Revisionist delegates whose rights to participate in the Congress proceeding is under review.
He declared the suspension of the Executive in America was based on two alleged documents: One, a memorandum to the United Nations secretary asking the United Nations Assembly to take up the Palestine question; and two, a proclamation calling for funds in the name of "Jewish resistance" which, according to the proclamation, should be the only one to collect funds for active fighters of the underground "Jewish Herces."—Associated Press.

316 Settlements
Basle, Dec. 17.
Officials of the Jewish National Fund reported to the Zionist World Congress that 55 Jewish agricultural settlements had been founded in Palestine in the past seven years, despite handicap laws restricting sale of land to Jews. They said there were now 316 such settlements.
The Congress turned to the routine work of drafting future policy proposals after an eight-day general debate, which revealed a serious split within the world Zionist organization.
President Chaim Weizmann's brilliant defence of his moderate policy yesterday apparently did much to restore his prestige in the organization, at the same time seriously affronting some American critics.—United Press.

OUTLOOK FAIR

Washington, Dec. 18.
President Truman's Council of Economic Advisors predicted today a "more favourable" outlook for jobs and production for "some years ahead."
A "temporary dip" may come in 1947, the board of three economists told the President, but "courageous and sensible" action by business and labour can hold the recession to "moderate proportions, but not avert it."—Associated Press.

A BRITISH CROSS WORD PUZZLE



Clues Across
1. Chemical. 11. Villain. 12. Shellfish. 13. Claret. 14. Intends. 15. Prolonged im. 16. Plural. 17. Unfused. 18. Writen. 19. Red Indian. 20. Inj. 21. Address. 22. Severe.
Clues Down
1. Leap. 2. Bider. 3. Prolonged im. 4. Aster. 5. Rooster. 6. Exile. 7. Chari. 8. Slow. 9. Bear. 10. Nile. 11. Sleep. 12. Forget. 13. Ailure. 14. Sailor. 15. Aware. 16. Rural. 17. Needs.

Yesterday's Crossword
ACROSS—1. Ark; 4. Absence; 5. Also; 6. Spur; 10. Tard; 11. Diet; 12. Gave; 14. Helms; 17. Trend; 19. False; 20. Warrior; 23. Leap; 27. Root; 28. Sarge; 29. Owe; 30. Ed; 31. Pelican; 32. Surf.
DOWN—2. Raptor; 3. Garden; 4. Aster; 5. Rooster; 6. Exile; 7. Chari; 12. Slow; 13. Bear; 15. Nile; 16. Sleep; 18. Forget; 20. Ailure; 21. Sailor; 23. Aware; 24. Rural; 25. Needs.

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|---------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| S.S. "China Victory" | Dec. 17 | San Francisco |
| S.S. "Lightning" | Dec. 19 | San Francisco |
| S.S. "Surprise" | Dec. 21 | San Francisco |
| S.S. "Swarthmore Victory" | Dec. 23 | San Francisco |
| S.S. "Great Republic" | Dec. 25 | San Francisco |
| S.S. "Fleetwood" | Dec. 27 | San Francisco |
| From New York via Panama Canal | | |
| S.S. "China Victory" | Jan. 10 | San Francisco |
| S.S. "Lightning" | Jan. 12 | San Francisco |
| S.S. "Surprise" | Jan. 14 | San Francisco |
| S.S. "Swarthmore Victory" | Jan. 16 | San Francisco |
| S.S. "Great Republic" | Jan. 18 | San Francisco |
| S.S. "Fleetwood" | Jan. 20 | San Francisco |
| From Seattle via Yokohama | | |
| S.S. "China Victory" | Jan. 12 | San Francisco |

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| "Surprise" | Jan. 8 | San Francisco, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Manila, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Japan |
| "Swarthmore Victory" | Jan. 11 | San Francisco, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Manila, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Japan |
| "Great Republic" | Jan. 29 | San Francisco, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Manila, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Japan |
| "Fleetwood" | Feb. 9 | San Francisco, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Manila, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Japan |

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ENGLAND AGAINST THE CLOCK

Excellent Batting Against Mammoth Aussie Score

Three Wickets Go For 247

Sydney, Dec. 18. England were 247 for the loss of three wickets at the close of today's play in the England v. Australia Test Match here, in their second innings reply to Australia's 659 for 8 declared. They lost Hutton's wicket 25 minutes from the start of their second innings after he had given a brilliant batting display, scoring 37 runs. Hutton was out to the last ball of Miller's over before lunch when he attempted to slice the ball and send it for another four to join the six he had already sent up. He stepped back too far and hit his wicket.

The score then stood at 49, with Washbrook 11, but Edrich joined the Lancashire and then traded into a partnership which began to worry the Australian bowlers.

Edrich overtook Washbrook at 39 with a single when they were both 20. Washbrook was playing a cautious game and taking no chances, but Edrich used his feet to excellent advantage and hit some well-placed fours.

Washbrook, however, must have taken Edrich's catching up to heart, as he hit a boundary two balls later in the same over and overtook his partner.

They both gave an equally good run-scoring performance, letting each other leap ahead with singles only to catch up again with a four in an exciting "leap frog" sort of innings.

Then McCool caught Washbrook as the ball glanced off his bat on to his pad and shot behind him towards the Australian in slips. McCool sprang into the air and just caught the ball with his fingers.

England were then 118 and this partnership had added 60 runs. Compton then joined Edrich and the two immediately began the collection of the runs England so badly needed. Compton put England's 200 up with a two at 42, when there was still an hour's play left.

Voodoo Dispelled

Miller, Australia's medium bowler, took the new ball at 202, going on to bowl for the first time after his initial three opening overs in the morning. Off his first ball Edrich dispelled the voodoo which had been built around his scores of 71, by knocking a short single.

Edrich came out after scoring 71 against Queensland and South Australia, as well as in the English first innings here on Friday and he received a fine ovation today, shattering the superstition as the crowd seemed to breathe a sigh of relief when he passed the haunting 71 to continue his admirable innings.

The Middlesex pair seemed well set, having played together often on their own County ground in similar partnerships, and there was a pleasing absence of any misunderstandings with their danger of run-outs.

Compton Out

It seemed as though their partnership was going to do to Australia what the Barnes-Bradman one did to England yesterday, until Compton fell to a catch by Bradman at slip off Freer.

Hammond replaced Compton and in his fourth ball, hit a four and followed it up with a single. Edrich continued his good work and in the rest of the seven minutes left of play he added several singles and another four.

The only six of the match was hit by Hammond in the fifth ball of the last over before stumps were drawn, bringing the English total to 247, for three wickets.

The scores are:

| AUSTRALIA | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| First Innings | 659 for 8 declared |
| Second Innings | |
| L. Hutton, hit wicket | 37 |
| C. Washbrook, c McCool, b Johnson | 41 |
| Edrich, not out | 56 |
| Compton, c Bradman, b Freer | 54 |
| Hammond, not out | 15 |
| Extras | 14 |
| Total for three wickets | 247 |

| BOWLING ANALYSIS | | | | |
|------------------|----|---|---|----|
| | O | M | W | R |
| Freer | 9 | 1 | 1 | 43 |
| Miller | 6 | 1 | 1 | 26 |
| McCool | 18 | 6 | 1 | 54 |
| Johnson | 6 | 1 | 1 | 51 |
| Tribe | 9 | 0 | 0 | 33 |
| Toshack | 6 | 1 | 0 | 16 |
| Bagness | 3 | 0 | 0 | 11 |

England launched a late counter-offensive when all seemed lost here today and magnificent batting by Hutton, Edrich and to a lesser degree by Washbrook and Compton fought back with tremendous courage.

Australia had set them to make 404 runs to avoid an innings defeat and nine hours remained for play.

Hutton, supremely determined, at once attacked the Australian bowling with astonishing fury, and from the first three overs he collected 30 runs, chiefly by superb driving.

Then a real tragedy overtook England. From what was the last ball before lunch Hutton, with a stylish sweep met Miller's delivery firmly. But finishing the stroke he took his bat over his head. He was unable to stop and lost control of his bat, which dropped on the wicket to the dismay of the whole England team.

Altogether Hutton hit 37 out of 49 in 24 minutes and seemed set for one of his big scores when the mishap occurred.

England did not appear to be worrying, however, for Hutton had showed them the way and though those who followed could not be expected to emulate his devastating punishment, they refused to bow to Australian mastery again.

Bill Edrich followed Hutton and the Middlesex all-rounder stayed from lunch until the close making 86.

Washbrook offered a left defence for 85 minutes and left at 118.

Edrich and his county colleague Compton, in the first three-figure stand for England in this Test series, put up 102.

Hutton's Bad Luck

Sydney, Dec. 18. Commenting at the close of the day, Victor Richardson, former Australian Test player, said: "England is in a perilous condition and unless this Edrich-Hammond partnership can kill the attack in the morning, their chance of holding out is very slender."

"Wright today again suffered at the hands of Tribe and Freer, who batted with careless abandon. In the balance of the pre-lunch period, it was to be expected that caution would govern the batting, particularly as England faced a deficit of 404 runs and time had become an essential factor."

"However, Hutton exhibited all the glories of batting. Every known shot was produced with the elegance of his old tutor, Herbert Sutcliffe in his prime."

"Hard luck again dogged England and when Hutton hit his wicket, there was not a person on the ground who was not genuinely disappointed at this happening."

"Edrich is still England's sheet anchor these days and he does not let them down. He took charge of his side and was much safer than Washbrook, who was slower in his footwork."—Reuter.

K.C.C. DANCE

A suggestion seems to have gained currency that dancing at the K.C.C. on New Year's Eve will take place on a cement floor. This is not the case, as a new wooden floor is in course of being laid and will be completed by the end of this week.

Music is being provided by the Dance Band of H.M.S. Adamant.

Christmas Regatta Programme

With the Christmas Regatta only two weeks ahead, last week saw some serious racing practices at the Yacht Club and at times there were as many as 50 Club members out sailing together in the various friendly races held.

Saturday had the best winds with a fresh Easterly breeze steady all the afternoon. Four "Stars" were out sailing individually. Up to date 21 Club members have passed their "driving test" for this class of yacht and more members are passing out each week. No additional "Stars" have appeared since the previous weekend, but the Club is concentrating on producing a maximum turn-out of dinghies and "Stars" for the Christmas Regatta.

The Saturday afternoon dinghy race was a record turn-out of 21 dinghies which included 5 dinghies from H.M. ships. These dinghies sailed a triangular course to Causeway Bay, Kowloon Rock and back to Kowloon, then a shorter triangular round Causeway Bay, buoy and Cuck Rock. 19 of the dinghies finished within about 15 minutes of each other and the time was good, and many of the finishes were closely contested.

The results of this race are as follows:

| Coxswain and Crew | Time |
|---|---------|
| 1st Black: Meek (Macdonald) | 1:32.35 |
| 2nd Commodore: H. Chiddell (Loebay) | 1:54.07 |
| 3rd Stonecutters: H. Hawitt (Coat) | 1:54.50 |
| 4th Bellair: Goodhart (Bennet) | 1:55.55 |
| 5th Tyne: Puttick (Spillane) | 1:55.55 |
| 6th Nabachair: Walton K. (McCormack) | 1:55.55 |
| 7th Adamant V: (Laidlaw) | 1:55.55 |
| 8th Commodore: Bayer (Aylen) | 1:55.55 |
| 9th Green: Collins (Mrs. Col. Hux) | 1:55.55 |
| 10th Duke of York: H. Reid (Mrs. Reid) | 1:55.55 |
| 11th Adamant III: Thompson (Mrs. Thompson) | 1:55.55 |
| 12th Stonecutters IV: Huxford (Huxford) | 1:55.55 |
| 13th Tyne: Puttick (Spillane) | 1:55.55 |
| 14th Adamant IV: Wilkinson | 1:55.55 |
| 15th Venerable: Gayford | 1:55.55 |
| 16th Commodore: Huxford (Huxford) | 1:55.55 |
| 17th Adamant I: Lloyd (Dorby) | 1:55.55 |
| 18th Bonaventure I: Beeching (Montgomery) | 1:55.55 |
| 19th Stonecutters II: Thomas | 1:55.55 |
| 20th Duke of York II: Commodore I did not finish. | |

Sunday was a day of light and variable winds and victories went with practically each race to the coxswain who forecast his wind changes correctly. Entries for the morning races were mainly due to the fact that a meeting of the Sailing Committee, which includes many of the Club's keenest helmsmen, was in session, engaged on producing a programme for the Christmas Regatta, details of which are given below. Five dinghies and three "Stars" actually raced in the morning and despite the light winds and flooding tide, all boats made good time round a triangular course. The results of these two races are as follows:

Coxswain & Crew Time
1st Adamant V: Coote 1:08.25
2nd Nabachair: Manning 1:08.25
3rd Green: Anderson 1:08.25
4th Adamant III: Evans 1:08.25
5th Tyne II: Ebb 1:08.25

Coxswain & Crew Time
1st Daphne: Howard (Puttick) 1:18.55
2nd Bonaventure: Walton K. (Mrs. Ruthwork, Miss Footlewhite) did not finish owing to a mishap.

On Sunday afternoon, "Stars" were set a long course from West to East and back, completing the course in about 2 1/2 hours. The wind was westerly, involving a long beat from Kowloon towards Stonecutters, but soon after the Stars had crossed the ferry, the wind dropped and when it eventually freshened it was from the North-east. Bellatrix had kept well towards Stonecutters, and when the wind eventually freshened it gave her as much as a mile and a half lead which the other boats managed to reduce somewhat on the homeward reach.

13 dinghies raced over a course from Kowloon to No. 7 buoy and round Cuck Rock. One ship's boat joined in the race at the start and did quite well, but cannot be recorded in the results as the coxswain did not register with the Officer of the Day in the Club-house either before or after the race. The results of the Sunday afternoon races are as follows:

Coxswain & Crew Time
1st Bellatrix: Howard-Meek 2:51.50
2nd Daphne: Howard, Bayer, Aylen 2:52.30
3rd Duke of York: Huxford 2:53.30
4th Bellatrix: Howard-Meek 2:54.30
5th Bellatrix: Howard-Meek 2:54.30
6th Bellatrix: Howard-Meek 2:54.30
7th Bellatrix: Howard-Meek 2:54.30
8th Bellatrix: Howard-Meek 2:54.30
9th Bellatrix: Howard-Meek 2:54.30
10th Bellatrix: Howard-Meek 2:54.30
11th Bellatrix: Howard-Meek 2:54.30
12th Bellatrix: Howard-Meek 2:54.30
13th Bellatrix: Howard-Meek 2:54.30

The following will represent the Club teams on Saturday on the Club ground.

| 1st Division: | Captain: Hopkinson; Strang; Bond; Leck; Beck; Freer; Waller; Fowler; Mullen; and Bickford. |
|---------------|--|
| 2nd Division: | —Roussiers; Strang; and Sloan; Odell; Skindun; and Kennard; Hambley; Gardner; Roscoe; Onnager; and Barley. |

H.K.C. TEAMS

The following will represent the Club teams on Saturday on the Club ground.

1st Division: Captain: Hopkinson; Strang; Bond; Leck; Beck; Freer; Waller; Fowler; Mullen; and Bickford.

2nd Division: —Roussiers; Strang; and Sloan; Odell; Skindun; and Kennard; Hambley; Gardner; Roscoe; Onnager; and Barley.

Woodcock Wins Basily

London, Dec. 17. In an international heavy weight contest at Harringay, London, tonight Bruce Woodcock beat Nisse Anderson, Sweden, in the third round.

The bout came to an end when the referee stopped the fight at the end of the third round owing to the Swede's cut eye.

The Briton scaled 13 stone 11 lb. and the Swede 14 stone 4 1/2 lb.—Reuter.

HIGH PRICE FOR A FILLY

The Gaekwar of Baroda has purchased the French filly Pirette, considered the best of her age and sex on the continent, for £20,000, and she has been entered for next year's Ascot Gold Cup.—Associated Press.

| (Solo) | Time |
|--|---------|
| 4th Duke of York I: Lewis (Palmy) | 1:13.05 |
| 5th Black: Howard (Solo) | 1:13.05 |
| 6th Duke of York II: Johnson | 1:13.05 |
| 7th Commodore: Huxford | 1:13.05 |
| 8th Black: Howard (Solo) | 1:13.05 |
| 9th Commodore: Huxford | 1:13.05 |
| 10th Bonaventure: I. Walton K. (Mrs. Laidlaw) | 1:13.05 |
| 11th Adamant III: Wilton-Moore (Mrs. Wilton-Moore) | 1:13.05 |
| 12th Tyne III: Miss. Roshworth (Miss. Roshworth) | 1:13.05 |
| 13th Nabachair: Ebb (Evans) | 1:13.05 |

Next weekend there will be the annual friendly races on Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday. "The Star" is being published by the Sailing Committee as a provisional programme for the Christmas Regatta, already announced.

All entries for the various events must be received before December 21. They can be telephoned to the Sailing Secretary, 50/51, and the entrance fees which are inclusive of boat hire and race fees, will be collected on the first morning of the Regatta. Teams for the dinghy races will be chosen from the individual entries.

Coxswains may enter for both the Star series and the dinghy series as arrangements will be made to fix in the various heats 50/51, and the entrance fees which are inclusive of boat hire and race fees, will be collected on the first morning of the Regatta. Teams for the dinghy races will be chosen from the individual entries.

Adequate boat service will be running from both Kowloon and Queen's Pier to Kowloon Island and it is hoped to be able to serve teas and other refreshments. A number of most welcome trophies have been presented to the Club recently and these will all be presented to the winners of the various events on Sunday at the end of the Regatta.

PROVISIONAL SAILING PROGRAMME FOR THE CHRISTMAS REGATTA

Saturday, December 22

Starting Race
10.10 a.m. (1) Ladies Trophy Race in club 14-ft. R.N.S.A. dinghies. 1 lady helmsman and 1 crew. Inclusive entrance fee 45 per cent.

10.15 a.m. (2) Individual Sweepstakes Race in club 14-ft. R.N.S.A. dinghies. 1 helmsman and 1 crew. Entrance fee 45 per cent. 1st prize £25. 2nd prize £15. 3rd prize £10. 4th prize £5. 5th prize £2.50. 6th prize £1.25. 7th prize £0.625. 8th prize £0.3125. 9th prize £0.15625. 10th prize £0.078125.

10.20 a.m. (3) Individual Race in Star Class Yachts—first heat. 1 helmsman, 1 crew—optional 2 crew. Inclusive entrance fee for series—£10 per cent.

10.25 a.m. (4) Individual Race in Star Class Yachts—second heat. 1 helmsman, 1 crew—optional 2 crew. Inclusive entrance fee for series—£10 per cent.

10.30 a.m. (5) Individual Race in Star Class Yachts—third heat. 1 helmsman, 1 crew—optional 2 crew. Inclusive entrance fee for series—£10 per cent.

10.35 a.m. (6) Individual Race in Star Class Yachts—fourth heat. 1 helmsman, 1 crew—optional 2 crew. Inclusive entrance fee for series—£10 per cent.

10.40 a.m. (7) First Fast Yachts Race in Star Class Yachts. 1 helmsman, 1 crew—optional 2 crew. Inclusive entrance fee for series—£10 per cent.

10.45 a.m. (8) Service Yachts Sailing Race for Silver Cup. Entrance fee 45 per cent. Sweepstakes £4 per boat. 1st prize £25. 2nd prize £15. 3rd prize £10. 4th prize £5. 5th prize £2.50. 6th prize £1.25. 7th prize £0.625. 8th prize £0.3125. 9th prize £0.15625. 10th prize £0.078125.

10.50 a.m. (9) "Star" Race. 1st prize £25. 2nd prize £15. 3rd prize £10. 4th prize £5. 5th prize £2.50. 6th prize £1.25. 7th prize £0.625. 8th prize £0.3125. 9th prize £0.15625. 10th prize £0.078125.

10.55 a.m. (10) Second Fast Yachts Race in Star Class Yachts. 1 helmsman, 1 crew—optional 2 crew. Inclusive entrance fee for series—£10 per cent.

11.00 a.m. (11) A Race for Service Yachts over a 5 mile course, part sailing, part rowing. Entrance fee 45 per cent. 1st prize £25. 2nd prize £15. 3rd prize £10. 4th prize £5. 5th prize £2.50. 6th prize £1.25. 7th prize £0.625. 8th prize £0.3125. 9th prize £0.15625. 10th prize £0.078125.

11.05 a.m. (12) The Trophies Trophy Race—a race over a 5 mile course for fully funded Star Yachts from all Members of the R.N.S.A. in Harbour. No entrance fee.

11.10 a.m. (13) Final Race in 14-ft. dinghies for the R.N.S.A. Trophy. 1 helmsman and 1 crew. Entrance fee 45 per cent. 1st prize £25. 2nd prize £15. 3rd prize £10. 4th prize £5. 5th prize £2.50. 6th prize £1.25. 7th prize £0.625. 8th prize £0.3125. 9th prize £0.15625. 10th prize £0.078125.

11.15 a.m. (14) Race for Star Yachts for the "Star" Trophy. 1 helmsman, 1 crew—optional 2 crew. Inclusive entrance fee for series—£10 per cent.

11.20 a.m. Presentation of Trophies.

The K.C.C. cricket match against the Hong Kong team, which was postponed owing to the bad weather, will be played on Saturday, December 23, at 11.30 a.m. at the K.C.C. ground.

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Cairo, Dec. 17. The new Premier, Mahmoud Fahmy Nokrashi Pasha, today won a vote of confidence in the Egyptian Chamber of Deputies after pledging that his Government would use "every legitimate method" to force British evacuation of troops from Egypt and cement Egyptian union with the Sudan.—United Press.

Rocket Breaks Two Records

White Sands, New Mexico, Dec. 18. A rocket, flying at a speed which would take it from London to Bombay in one hour and to Shanghai in an hour and a half, was fired by the United States Army here during the night. It was officially announced.

A variety of the German V-2 weapon which carried out long-range bomb attacks on London during the war, the rocket was set off over the desert where the first atom bomb had its sensational impact last year.

The United States authorities claimed two records for last night—an altitude of 110 miles and a speed of 3,500 feet per second or more than 3,600 miles per hour.—Reuter.

Brussels Dump Explodes

Brussels, Dec. 18. Windows were broken and roofs damaged in the southeast part of Brussels, when a military ammunition depot exploded, at Groenendael on the outskirts of the town early this morning.

No casualties have so far been reported.

The roar of the explosion was heard as far away as Mons, 32 miles south of Brussels.—Associated Press.

IRAN TROOPS ON SOVIET BORDER

Teheran, Dec. 18. Persian Headquarters in Teheran today announced the occupation of the last six important towns in Azerbaijan, bringing practically the whole of the province under Government control.

They were Marand, Julfa, Khui and Maku in the north-western corner of the province and Rasht and Ardabil. Their occupation means that Imperial troops have reached the Soviet frontier at all important points.—Reuter.

MARSEILLES MYSTERY

Paris, Dec. 18. An attempt to kidnap the police inspector in charge of the case of the two men charged with the slaying of the Norwegian Consul, Frederick Kristian Marsander, last month, was reported today by the Le Parisien Libere.

The paper said that the police officer was assaulted by unknown men who attempted to push him into their car. Girel, however, fought back stubbornly and the assailants fled.—Associated Press.

BLUM ISSUES IRON CURTAIN ORDER

Paris, Dec. 18. Premier Leon Blum drew an "iron curtain" over the activities of his Government today with an edict that no member of Government, no Cabinet Minister nor any civil servant should give press conference or statements to the press or radio without his personal permission.—United Press.

ACQUITTAL

Berlin, Dec. 18. Wilhelm Furtwaengler, Germany's No. 1 orchestra conductor whom the United States had frowned upon, was today acquitted of Nazism by an artist tribunal of his own countrymen.—Associated Press.

Karachi, Dec. 18. A Muslim League Ministry is expected to be formed in Sind Province before Christmas, following yesterday's general election results, which gave the League 84 out of the 80 seats in the Assembly.—Reuter.

Ottawa, Dec. 17. The Prices Board announces a ten-per cent increase in consumer price of new Canadian-made passenger automobiles and 17 per cent increase in commercial vehicles, effective December 18.—Reuter.

HONG KONG ACTION AGAINST RAJAH MUDA

(By "Paul Pry")

"I have been asked to sign a written promise not to engage in any political activity in connection with Sarawak and to give no interviews to the Press. I have categorically refused to give any such assurance."

With these words, Anthony Brooke, "Rajah Muda of Sarawak," who has been refused permission to enter the country, summed up for me in the course of an exclusive last night the reasons why the Hong Kong Government has refused to endorse his passport and enable him to travel on to Singapore, and more or less confining him to the Colony for the time being.

Son of 70-year-old Bertram Brooke, heir presumptive to the former "White Rajah of Sarawak," 34-year-old Anthony Brooke was, until Sarawak was ceded in July, generally looked upon as the eventual actual successor and, indeed, headed the Provisional Government set up in Mountbatten's Regs. before V-J Day.

"I want to stress that the principle at stake is a far bigger one than the comparative minor one of Sarawak itself," he said to me. "It concerns the vital subject of the freedom and future of the Colonial peoples of the Empire."

Sarawak is perhaps better known to the average person as some sort of a place in the Far East, ruled by a White Rajah whose daughters hit the news headlines when they marry band-leaders, etc. Actually, Anthony Brooke told me, it was, before 1941, an independent state progressing rapidly towards democratic self-rule and the 1941 constitution saw the natives of Sarawak in the majority in Government—with a State Council which also included four Chinese members.

Singapore Statement

Singapore, Dec. 18. A Government spokesman stated today that nothing was known regarding the Sarawak Government's ban on the visit of Mr. Anthony Brooke—former Rajah Muda to Sarawak. Circles connected with the Brooke family in Singapore stated, however, that Anthony will seek a clarification of his position in Singapore and will try to ascertain why the ban has been imposed.

Soon after his arrival here, Mr. Anthony Brooke, it is believed, will meet the Colonial Secretary of Singapore or the Secretary-General to the Governor, General Hoffman.—Reuter.

Food Situation Easier

London, Dec. 18. Food Minister John Strachey today cancelled plans to fly to Washington in a plea for additional food, and told the House of Commons that the United States had promised to ship 104,000 tons of wheat and flour by January 31.

This, he said, was enough to avert a very grave emergency.—Associated Press.

AMBER BAN

Sheffield, Dec. 18. Nine members of the City Library Committee today studied Kathleen Winsor's "Forever Amber" and unanimously decided it was "not fit for public circulation."

The book will be banned from city libraries and copies already issued will be withdrawn.—United Press.

Former members of The Hong Kong Theosophical Society, and other Theosophists, are requested to attend a meeting today at 4:30 p.m. owing to the original premises not being available, the meeting will be held at the office of Kishinchand Chellaram, Room 212 Prince's Building, Ice House Street.

Mr. W. M. Weinberger, chairman of the War Disposal Board, Hong Kong, will speak on "London Blitz Organisation during the War" at today's meeting of the Ys Men's Club at 7 p.m. on the first floor of the Gloucester Hotel.

RADIO

ZBW Hong Kong broadcasting on a frequency of 845 kilocycles and from 12.30 to 1.15 p.m. 630 to 7.30 p.m. and 9 to 11 p.m. also on 9.52 megacycles, 11.57.

12.30 p.m.—Daily Programme Summary.
12.45 p.m.—"Serenade to the Stars."
1.15 p.m.—"Ocean Robin and His Family Band."
1.30 p.m.—News, Weather Report and Announcements.
1.45 p.m.—Orchestral Interlude.
1.55 p.m.—Variety.
2.05 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 1).
2.15 p.m.—New Light symphony orchestra.
2.30 p.m.—Close Down.
2.40 p.m.—Studio "Children's Hour."
2.50 p.m.—"Services" Studio Hall.
3.00 p.m.—London Relay: "The Merry Melodians."
3.15 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 2).
3.30 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 3).
3.45 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 4).
4.00 p.m.—London Relay: "The Merry Melodians."
4.15 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 5).
4.30 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 6).
4.45 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 7).
5.00 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 8).
5.15 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 9).
5.30 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 10).
5.45 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 11).
6.00 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 12).
6.15 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 13).
6.30 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 14).
6.45 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 15).
7.00 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 16).
7.15 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 17).
7.30 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 18).
7.45 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 19).
8.00 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 20).
8.15 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 21).
8.30 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 22).
8.45 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 23).
9.00 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 24).
9.15 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 25).
9.30 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 26).
9.45 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 27).
10.00 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 28).
10.15 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 29).
10.30 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 30).
10.45 p.m.—"The Merry Melodians" (Part 31).
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